

The box may be conveniently formed with the top 3 being a lockable cover. The front wall 2 illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 is formed with a die-cut, removable panel 10 which can be removed along a perforated line 10A. A portion 10B of the panel 10 may be folded inwardly along crease line 10C and 11 within the box lying adjacent to the spool 26 of cable. This may be done such that the panel 10 frictionally engages the spool 26 or such that the panel 10 serves to reinforce the upper edge of the opening 11 which may be used as a handle for the box. The edges of the panel 10 may be conventionally die cut intermittently so that it will remain in planar alignment with the wall 2 unless moved relative thereto under a positive force. The upper edge may be scored or die cut depending on whether the panel is to be removed completely or folded inwardly.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 16 as follows:

*a 7* Positioned within the box is an interior support, with its relative position within the box illustrated in Figure 4. The interior support is preferably formed of two opposed rigid supports 18. These rigid supports 18 may comprise STYROFOAM (expanded plastic made from polystyrene) or other rigid plastic elements made through a molding, blow forming, or other plastic forming process. Alternatively, the rigid supports may also be comprised of internal panels of cardboard that may be integrally formed from the same sheet of cardboard used to form the box. The supports are positioned parallel to one another on the inner surfaces of the side walls 1 in a spaced relation. Each support is formed of board approximately one inch thick in the embodiment illustrated in Figure 4, with length and width dimensions sized to occupy the width and height of the box. In the illustrated embodiment, the supports here are "U"-shape. The supports 18 are each formed with an integrally defined journal to function as an axle or spindle support 20 in the preferred embodiment. The spindle supports 20 are formed as an elongated opening extending from the upper edges of the supports 18 downwardly from the top 3 of the box towards the bottom edge of the box. The edges 22 form the side edges of the journals while the bottoms 23 forms the bottom edges of the journals. In the illustrated embodiment, the journal of each support is defined by the bight of the "U"-shape. The bottom edge 23 is positioned closer to the bottom of the box than to the top of the box. By spacing the facing edges 22 a

distance on the order of five inches apart, a variety of different sized spindles for spools 26 of wire and cable may be accommodated. A spool 26 of wire or cable 25 is conventionally formed with a spool 26 supported on a spindle 24 with the spindle 24 preferably integrally formed within the spool and having a diameter of less than five inches or less than the space between the opposite edges 22 of each side 18. Alternative embodiments may incorporate a spool that is separate from a spindle.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 8 as follows:

at Figure 5 illustrates a plan view of one embodiment of the invention where both the box and the rigid supports 18 are formed from one sheet of cardboard. The figure shows the sheet of cardboard after it has been cut but before it has been glued and folded to form a box with integral rigid supports. The rectangular side walls 1, the end wall 2, and the top wall 3 are numbered in Figure 5 such that they correspond to the numbered sides shown in Figures 1, 2, and 3 which show a box in the assembled state. Solid lines in this drawing represent complete cuts in the cardboard while dashed lines represent either fold lines or perforation lines where panels may be removed if desired. Figure 6 shows a cutaway view of box formed from the sheet of cardboard shown in Figure 5. To form the box, the following steps are taken. The sheet is folded along crease lines 2A, 1A between the panels defining the front 2, the back, the side walls 1, and the bottom. Then too, 41A forming a portion of the bottom is glued to tab 41B, 42A is glued to tab 42B and 43A is glued to tab 43B. Tabs 41A, 41B, 42A and 42B form the bottom when secured together. The sheet now has an elongated box form without a top. The next step involves folding panels 44 which are connected to the upper edge of the side panels 1 by crease lines 44A and folding them into the internal cavity of the box. These internal panels 44 as illustrated in Figure 5 each have spacers 46 that integrally connect along crease lines 44B along the edges remote from side panel 1. Each spacer 46 includes a center section 46A and end sections 46B and 46C. The end sections are connected to the center sections along crease lines 46D. These end sections 46B and 46C are folded over the center section 46A into a sandwich-like configuration. Thus assembly of the sandwich-like configuration is folded against the internal panel 44 between the panel 44 and the side wall 1. When so folded the unfolded longitudinal

edge of the sandwich-like configuration is aligned with the lower edge 50 of rectangular opening 51. When assembled the configuration provides a rigid formal support 52 as illustrated in FIG. 6, having at least four thicknesses of cardboard that will function to support the spindle of a spool of wire. Figures 7 and 8 illustrate the details of the top wall 3 of the box. The top wall provides a secure means to keep the box closed and also improves the structural rigidity of the box. The top wall 3 includes a first top flap 31 and a second top flap 32. To close the lockable cover, the first flap 31 is moved into the position shown in Figure 7. Here, the tab at the distal end of the first flap is tucked into an interior portion of the box. Next the second flap 32 is folded over the first flap to a position like that shown in Figure 1. The three flap locks 34 are then tucked into an interior position of the box. The three corresponding locking tabs 35 are then placed through the flap locks 34 to hold the top wall 3 rigidly in place. Such a rigid connection is particularly important when a handle is included in the top wall 3 of the box. Various locking tabs may be incorporated through the invention to hold the various components in place.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 12 as follows:

As illustrated in Figures 2 and 3, the spool 26 with the cable 25 is pre-packaged within the box. The free end of the cable 25 may be drawn or fed from the box either through the handle opening 15 as illustrated in Figure 3 or, alternately, through the large opening formed by the absence of panel 10 as shown in Figure 2, depending upon the particular needs and desire of the user of the box. Figure 9 shows a retainer that may be used to hold the free end of the cable 25 in place during shipment. The retainer is an elongated rubber band 17, but alternatively could be comprised of different materials including an elastic fabric, a non-elastic fabric, a plastic material, a cord or any similar materials known to those in the art. A first end 17A of the band is fastened to the cable approximately 6 inches from the free end 25A of the cable 25. A second end 17B of the band is then stretched around the spool in the same direction as the cable. After one complete revolution, the second end is looped around the free end of the cable which serves to lock the free end in place. The band has the added benefit of making the free end of the cable easy to locate and remove. To remove the cable from the box, one only has to locate the band and pull or rotate it until it leads to the free end of the cable. Pulling the band in the vicinity of